

# LETTER

To the REVEREND

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M<sup>r</sup>. CHARLES LESLEY.

URBINO, Nov. 29.  
1717. N. S.

I Thank you for the particular Account you give me, in Your's of the 29th of October, of the Affairs of Dr. Hoadly before the CONVOCATION, to which there was a Stop put by a Prorogation, to prevent an Enquiry into his *Doctrine*, and, in all Appearance, a just *Censure* thereof, in their own *Ecclesiastical Way*. This, with many other Proceedings of the *Electors* of *Hannover*, seem to be design'd, by Providence, to shew the *Church* and *People* of *England*, how little secure their Lives and Privileges are, under the present *Government*; for by the best Information I can have, the *Intrinsic* *Spiritual Power* of the *Church*, or, the *Power* of the *Keys*, as it was exercised by the *Apostles*, and the most *Pure* and *Primitive Church*, in the three first *Centuries*, after *Christ*, have ever been thought an *Essential Right* of the *Church* of *England*, so that *It* may inquire into the *Doctrines* of its own *Members*, and inflict *Ecclesiastical Censures*, not extending to any *Civil Punishment*. Now the *Civil Government* putting a Stop to such Proceedings, is, in Effect, the taking away that undoubted *Right* of the *Church*, which, if it please *G O D* to restore *ME* to my own *JUST RIGHT*, I am firmly resolved to maintain to *It*. The many and repeated Assurances I have given, of maintaining inviolably to the *Church* of *England*, all Her just *Rights* and *Privileges* secured to Her by so many *Laws*, of confirming those *Rights* in our first *Parliament*, and of giving what further reasonable *Security*, on that Head, shall then seem good to our *People*, is, I think, more than enough to quiet and satisfy the most *Scrupulous* and *Apprehensive*, as to the *Security* that *Church* will enjoy under our *Lawful Government*: And if *People* would but compare what they now feel and see, with what they may then expect, the Conclusion cannot but be very much to my *Advantage*, for opening of the *Eyes* of those now deluded, and convincing them, that doing Justice to *Me*, is the only solid Foundation for a lasting *Peace* and *Happiness* both in *Church* and *State*.

Having so fair an Opportunity, I could not but signify thus much to you and you may communicate it to whom you think fit. I doubt not but the *Convocation* will now soon meet again, for it would be too gross to put it off a second Time, and then, to be sure, *It* will take the Case of Dr. Hoadly again under its Consideration, and I shall be glad to hear from you what is done in it.

I am the more glad of Your good *Health*, that you know how concerned I was at its not allowing you to stay longer in this *Climate*, which agrees better with my *Health* than my *Inclination*, but I hope in *God's Mercy* better *Times* may come. I wish we may soon meet where we both so much desire to be, where I shall be able to shew you the singular *Regard* I have for You.

J. R.